

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method including  
receiving a user request for an object at a server;  
performing an operation on data associated with said object at a cluster device,  
said operation including accessing said object at said server and determining a result of scanning  
said object at said cluster device; and  
conditionally allowing access to said object in response to said user request and  
said [[a]] result of said operation.
2. (Original) A method as in claim 1, including conditioning said operation on a  
feature of said object, said feature including at least one of: a file name, a file type, a filesystem  
share.
3. (Original) A method as in claim 1, including conditioning said operation on an  
intersection of  
a feature of said object, said feature including at least one of: a file name, a file  
type, a filesystem share; and  
a type of access associated with said user request;

wherein said operation is performed for an intersection of at least one said feature and at least one type of access.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, including persistently recording said ~~[[a]]~~ result of said operation in association with said object.

5. (Original) A method as in claim 1, including selecting said cluster device to perform said operation in response to a priority class associated with said cluster device.

6. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said operation includes a plurality of processes, each one process being performed at a separate cluster device.

7. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said operation includes at least one of: virus scanning, encryption or decryption, compression or decompression.

8. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said operation includes  
setting a timeout at said server;  
resetting said timeout in response to receiving a response from said cluster device  
to a protocol message asking if said cluster device is still working on said operation; and  
determining that said operation is successful in response to receiving a response  
from said cluster device before said timeout expires.

9. (Original) A method as in claim 1, including assigning an access type to said cluster device, said access type allowing said cluster device to perform said operation notwithstanding user locks associated with said object.

10. (Original) A method as in claim 9, including restricting said access type in response to at least one of: a selected set of network addresses for said cluster device, a selected set of domain names for said cluster device, a selected set of user names at said cluster device, a selected set of interfaces between said server and said cluster device.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, including  
at a first time, recording said [[a]] result of said operation for said object; and  
at a second time, conditioning said operation on said result.

12. (Original) A method as in claim 11, wherein said result includes at least one of: a time when said operation was performed, remedial measures taken in response to said operation, whether access was allowed in response to said operation.

13. (Original) A method as in claim 1, including conditioning said operation on a type of access associated with said user request.

14. (Original) A method as in claim 13, wherein said operation is performed before allowing access to said object for requests including read access.

15. (Original) A method as in claim 13, wherein said operation is performed after allowing access to said object for requests including write access.

16. (Currently Amended) Apparatus including

- a server having a set of objects and a network interface;
- a user request for at least one requested one of said objects;
- a cluster device;
- a first message from said server to said cluster device, said first message indicating said requested one object;
- a second message from said cluster device to said server, said second message indicating a result of a scanning an operation performed at said cluster device on said requested one object; and
- a response to said user request, said response including conditional access to said object in response to said second message.

17. (Original) Apparatus as in claim 16, wherein said first message is responsive to a feature of said object, said feature including at least one of: a file name, a file type, a filesystem share.

18. (Original) A method as in claim 16, wherein said first message is responsive to an intersection of

a feature of said object, said feature including at least one of: a file name, a file type, a filesystem share; and

a type of access associated with said user request.

19. (Original) Apparatus as in claim 16, wherein said first message is directed at a selected said cluster device in response to a priority class associated with said cluster device.

20. (Original) Apparatus as in claim 16, including a plurality of said first messages directed at separate said cluster devices in response to a single said user request.

21. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 16, wherein said result is said ~~second message includes a result~~ of at least one of: virus scanning, encryption or decryption, compression or decompression.

22. (Original) Apparatus as in claim 16, including a persistent record of at least some information responsive to said second message, said persistent record being associated with said object.

23. (Original) Apparatus as in claim 22, wherein said persistent record includes at least one of: a time when said second message was received, remedial measures taken by said cluster device in response to said first message, whether access was allowed in response to said user request.

24. (Original) Apparatus as in claim 16, wherein said conditional access is responsive to a type of access associated with said user request.

25. (Original) Apparatus as in claim 24, wherein said second message is received before allowing access to said object for user requests including read access.

26. (Original) Apparatus as in claim 24, wherein said first message is sent after allowing access to said object for user requests including write access.

27. (Currently Amended) Memory or mass storage including instructions interpretable by a computing device, said instructions directing said computing device to receive a user request for an object at a server;  
perform an operation on data associated with said object at a cluster device, said operation including accessing said object at said server and determining a result of scanning said object at said cluster device; and

conditionally allow access to said object in response to said user request and said ~~[[a]] result of said operation.~~

28. (Original) Memory or mass storage as in claim 27, including instructions directing said computing device to condition said operation on a feature of said object, said feature including at least one of: a file name, a file type, a filesystem share.

29. (Original) Memory or mass storage as in claim 27, including instructions directing said computing device to condition said operation on an intersection of

a feature of said object, said feature including at least one of: a file name, a file type, a filesystem share; and

a type of access associated with said user request;

wherein said operation is performed for an intersection of at least one said feature and at least one type of access.

30. (Currently Amended) Memory or mass storage as in claim 27, including instructions directing said computing device to persistently record said ~~[[a]]~~ result of said operation in association with said object.

31. (Original) Memory or mass storage as in claim 27, including instructions directing said computing device to select said cluster device to perform said operation in response to a priority class associated with said cluster device.

32. (Original) Memory or mass storage as in claim 27, wherein said operation includes a plurality of processes, each one process being performed at a separate cluster device.

33. (Original) Memory or mass storage as in claim 27, wherein said operation includes at least one of: virus scanning, encryption or decryption, compression or decompression.

34. (Original) Memory or mass storage as in claim 27, wherein said operation includes

setting a timeout at said server;

resetting said timeout in response to receiving a response from said cluster device to a protocol message asking if said cluster device is still working on said operation; and

determining that said operation is successful in response to receiving a response from said cluster device before said timeout expires.

35. (Original) Memory or mass storage as in claim 27, including instructions directing said computing device to assigning an access type to said cluster device, said access



type allowing said cluster device to perform said operation notwithstanding user locks associated with said object.

36. (Original) Memory or mass storage as in claim 35, including instructions directing said computing device to restrict said access type in response to at least one of: a selected set of network addresses for said cluster device, a selected set of domain names for said cluster device, a selected set of user names at said cluster device, a selected set of interfaces between said server and said cluster device.

37. (Currently Amended) Memory or mass storage as in claim 27, including instructions directing said computing device to

at a first time, record said [[a]] result of said operation for said object; and  
at a second time, condition said operation on said result.

38. (Original) Memory or mass storage as in claim 37, wherein said result includes at least one of: a time when said operation was performed, remedial measures taken in response to said operation, whether access was allowed in response to said operation.

39. (Original) Memory or mass storage as in claim 27, including instructions directing said computing device to condition said operation on a type of access associated with said user request.

40. (Original) Memory or mass storage as in claim 39, wherein said operation is performed before allowing access to said object for requests including read access.

41. (Original) Memory or mass storage as in claim 39, wherein said operation is performed after allowing access to said object for requests including write access.